

## Message Text

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13

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CU-04 ARA-16 NSCE-00 SSO-00 SS-15 NSC-10

PA-03 PRS-01 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 RSR-01

INRE-00 /087 W

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O 230816Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1377

UNCLAS MOSCOW 10044

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, SCUL, CU, US

SUBJ: UNIVERSIADE - FIGHT AT CUBAN-U.S. BASKETBALL GAME

USIA FOR IBS, IPS

1. U.S. DELEGATION REPORTS THAT FIGHT BEGAN WITH 98 SECONDS TO GO WHEN BOTH TEAMS DOVE FOR LOOSE BALL AND CUBAN STRUCK AMERICAN PLAYER. CUBANS POURED OFF BENCH AND ATTACKED AMERICANS WITH FISTS AND CHAIRS. UNDER STANDING INSTRUCTIONS FROM AMERICAN COACH, TEAM RETREATED DOWN COURT, BUT THREW PUNCHES IN DEFENSE. AS AUTHORITIES GOT FIGHT UNDER CONTROL, SOVIET SPECTATORS BOOED AND WHISTLED CUBANS OFF FLOOR. SCATTERED SHOUTS EQUIVALENT TO "CUBANS GO HOME" WERE HEARD BY AMERICANS PRESENT. FURTHER DETAILS IN PRESS REPORTS.
2. WHEN GAME BEGAN AGAIN SOVIETS APPLAUDED AMERICAN TEAM FOR THREE OR FOUR MINUTES.
3. AMERICANS MADE STATEMENT TO BASKETBALL TECHNICAL COMMITTEE OF UNIVERSIADE WHICH MET WEDNESDAY NIGHT: "WE CAME TO THE USSR IN THE SPIRIT OF GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP, AND WERE SHOCKED BY THE CUBAN ACTION. THE RESPONSE OF THE SOVIET AUDIENCE CLEARLY INDICATED WHERE THE FAULT LAY."

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4. FYI: EMBASSY UNDERSTANDS FROM SOURCE OF TECHNICAL

COMMITTEE THAT IT ABSOLVED U.S. OF ALL BLAME FOR INCIDENT  
AND SEVERELY REPRIMANDED CUBANS. THIS IS TO BE MADE  
PUBLIC IN PRESS RELEASE LATER TODAY. WILL REPORT.

5. AMERICANS HAD CONSIDERED PRE-GAME PROTEST BECAUSE  
THEY SCHEDULED TO PLAY CUBA DESPITE BRAZIL'S WIN OVER  
CUBA TUESDAY. THEY DECIDED AGAINST PROTEST, AND ARE NOW  
GLAD BECAUSE OF CLEAR-CUT RESPONSE SUPPORTING U.S. TEAM.

6. TASS CARRYING STRAIGHT REPORT ON GAME OUTCOME; NO WORD  
OF FIGHT.  
DUBS

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** n/a  
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**Disposition Comment:**  
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